

CH-541

1815-1833

Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard

Fenwick vic.

Private

The tiny Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard contains only six rectangular stones that lie flat on the ground. Sited atop a slight rise on the west side of Fenwick Road, the small cemetery was once associated with an early 19th century plantation known as "Pommonkey" or "Pommonkey Farm." The six engraved stones are severely eroded and difficult to read.

The Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard is the last extant remnant of an early 19th century plantation that once occupied all of Pommonkey Point. Owned and occupied by the Fenwick and Brent families during the early decades of the 19th century, the plantation, at one time, incorporated a dwelling house, outbuildings.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-541

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard

Common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Thomas Warner property not for publication _____
city or town Fenwick vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20616

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
_____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_____ building(s)
_____ district
X site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

None

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof _____
walls _____
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance 1815-1833

Significant Dates 1815, 1823,
1824, 1829,
1833

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-541

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 8.43 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is designated as Parcel 53 on Map 5 of the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard has been associated with Parcel 53, Map 5 since its construction.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 28, 1999
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Thomas F. Warner, et al. (contact Diane Ives)
street & number 12308 Hatton Point Rd. telephone _____
city or town Fort Washington state MD zip code 20744

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

Section 7 Page 1

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The tiny Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard contains only six rectangular stones that lie flat on the ground. Sited atop a slight rise on the west side of Fenwick Road, the small cemetery was once associated with an early 19th century plantation known as "Pomonkey" or "Pomonkey Farm." The six engraved stones are severely eroded and difficult to read.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 1

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard is the last extant remnant of an early 19th century plantation that once occupied all of Pomonkey Point. Owned and occupied by the Fenwick and Brent families during the early decades of the 19th century, the plantation, at one time, incorporated a dwelling house, outbuildings, and a fishery.

James Fenwick acquired the 500-acre "Southampton" estate of Benjamin T. Fendall for a substantial \$10,000 in 1814. Fenwick renamed the plantation "Pomonkey" or "Pomonkey Estate," and may have erected a new dwelling house near the site of the present cemetery. Deed records indicate that a house stood somewhere on the 500-acre property prior to 1844.¹ That year, Fenwick's heir and grandson, Robert J. Brent was forced to sell his father's estate along with much of his personal property in order to pay off his debts. The deed of trust in which Brent assigned Joseph H. Bradley as his agent to sell the property, lists the goods up for sale. They included several slaves, mules, cows, oxen & sheep, as well as all the farming utensils on the property, and "all household and kitchen furniture now in the 'Pomonkey House,'" including a bed, bedstead and mattresses. The entire "Pomonkey Estate" and personal property sold for \$8950 to Edmund J. Plowden of St. Mary's County.

In 1845, Plowden sold the estate known as "Pomonkey" to a relative, Dr. William H. Plowden for \$8000. It is not known whether or not Dr. Plowden occupied the estate, but following his death (before 1870), a equity case concerning Joseph and Henrietta Forrest and Edmund J. Plowden arose, and the court decreed that the property be sold at auction. This time the now 800-acre property sold for a mere \$3200. This severe reduction in property value is reflective of the economic decline experience throughout Charles County following the Civil War.

John W. Jenkins purchased the 800 acres of "Pomonkey" in 1870, and in 1882 willed it to two of his sons, John W., Jr. and Eugene A. Jenkins. At his death, the senior Jenkins was possessed of a large quantity of land which included his dwelling plantation known as "Retirement."

By 1888, the property had been again transferred by public sale as

¹ See deed from Robert J. Brent to Joseph H. Bradley, Charles County Land Records, Liber WM 1, Folio 11-18, recorded January 12, 1844.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 2

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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a result of a mortgage default. Thomas W. Richmond purchased the remaining 320 acres of "Pomoukey Point" that year for \$1894. In 1917, Richmond acquired additional adjacent tracts of land. He transferred this to Edwin A. Richmond and others in 1939. C. Leslie McCrea and others purchased the same 260-acre property from Richmond in 1944. The present owners acquired a portion of this larger tract in 1978.

Further research is necessary to learn more about the Fenwick/Brent family and its contributions to local history.

The following is a copy of a transcription of the gravestone inscriptions made by Rose Willett in 1968:

1. *To the Memory of Wm. Leigh Brent, Junior*
Born at St. Martinsville, Louisiana on September 30 (1824)
who died at Washington City, D.C. 17 March 1833
Aged 12 years, 5 months, 17 days
Stone erected by mourning and affectionate Father & Mother
Wm. L. Brent and his wife Maria Fenwick
2. *To the Memory of ?????*
????? Louisiana?????
Born upon the 1st of March 1829 & died at Pomoukey Charles
County, Maryland upon 15th of September, age 6 months & 13
days
This stone erected by affectionate Parents Wm. L. Brent and
Maria his wife
The Lord bless Thee & keep Thee
3. *To the Memory of Sarah Ann*
Daughter of James Fenwick &
Terisa his wife, Daughter of Robert Brent
Died September 22, 1815
4. *Sacred to Memory of James Fenwick*
who departed this life September 3, 1823
In the 60th year of his age
He was the eldest son of Ignatius Fenwick & Sarah Taney his
wife

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

Section 8 Page 3

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

May he rest in Peace

5. *To the Memory of Edward Fenwick
Who departed this Life June 24, 1824
36 years of his age
This stone erected by his sister
In the morning man shall grow up like grass
In the morning he shall flourish & pass away*
6. Not transcribed (illegible?).

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification,
1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition,
1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): FUNERARY/Cemetery

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-541

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

October 10, 1814: Benjamin T. Fendall of Charles
County to James Fenwick of Charles
County
\$10,000
"Southampton Enlarged" (at that time
occupied by Fendall) on Pomonkey
Creek
500 acres ("the graveyard thereon as
now enclosed excepted")
Charles County Land Records
Liber JB 11 Folio 11

October 21, 1823: Will of James Fenwick
Lands go to his grandson, Robert
James Brent, after the death of his
father, William L. Brent & mother,
Maria (Fenwick) Brent
Part of land was purchased from
Benjamin T. Fendall and part is the
"Tenement on which Medley lives"
Charles County Land Records
Liber HB 14 Folio 283

January 12, 1844: Robert J. Brent to Joseph H. Bradley
of Washington, DC
Robert was indebted unto Bradley for
\$3000
Holds public sale (ad in *National
Intelligencer*)
Sells tract inherited from his
grandfather ("Pomonkey") plus
contiguous tracts, plus personal
property, including his "negroes,
mules, cows, oxen, sheep, horses,
corn...farming utensils on the
lands,...and all household and
kitchen furniture now in the
"Pomonkey House,"... bed, bedstead,
mattress...with all the
buildings...fisheries, etc...."
Charles County Land Records
Liber WM 1 Folio 11

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Inventory No. CH-541

Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
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July 19, 1844: Robert & Matilda Brent of Baltimore
City, Joseph H. Bradley of
Washington, DC to Edmund J. Plowden
of St. Mary's County
\$8950 "Pommonkey Estate"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WM 1 Folio 162

September 20, 1845: Edmund J. Plowden of St. Mary's
County to Dr. William H. Plowden of
Charles County
\$8000
"Pommonkey"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WM 1 Folio 483

July 19, 1870: J. Parran Crane to John W. Jenkins
(Sr.)
Public sale resulting from Equity
case, decree January 16, 1869,
Joseph & Henrietta Forrest vs.
Edmund J. Plowden
\$3200
800 acres known as "Pommonkey" in
Pommonkey Neck
Same land which Dr. Plowden owned at
his death
Charles County Land Records
Liber GAH 2 Folio 465

1882: Will of John W. Jenkins
To 2 sons, John W., Jr. & Eugene A.
Jenkins: "my farm called "Pommonkey
Point" & all stock of whatsoever
kind and farming utensils which may
be on the place"
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber MT 18 Folio 217

April 17, 1888: Adrian Posey, Attorney to Thomas W.
Richmond
Mortgage default
Public sale: March 6, 1888
"Pommonkey Point"
\$1894

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fenwick/Brent Graveyard
name of property
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=====

	320 acres Charles County Land Records Liber JST 2 Folio 74
April 17, 1917:	Walter J. Mitchell, Trustee to Thomas W. Richmond Charles County Land Records Liber CP 31 Folio 591
December 31, 1917:	Kate P. Johnson to Thomas W. Richmond Part of "Pomonkey Fishery" Charles County Land Records Liber FBM 32 Folio 454
August 17, 1939:	Thomas W. Richmond, widower to Edwin Richmond, et al. Charles County Land Records Liber WMA 71 Folio 465
July 6, 1944:	Edwin A. Richmond, Kathleen Downes, Dorothy R. Richmond & Olive M. Raum, widow to C. Leslie McCrea, et ux. \$5500 "Part of Pomonkey Point" 260 acres (except 3 lots shown on plat dated May 4, 1944, Plat Book Liber 2 Folio 10) Charles County Land Records Liber 80 Folio 221
April 3, 1978:	E. Forest & Carolyn E. Warner to Thomas F. Warner, Carol Jean Gesell, A. Diane Ives & E. David Warner 8.4266 acres Includes an easement for a cemetery located N 11 degrees, 21', 39" 90 by 50 feet Charles County Land Records Liber 569 Folio 253

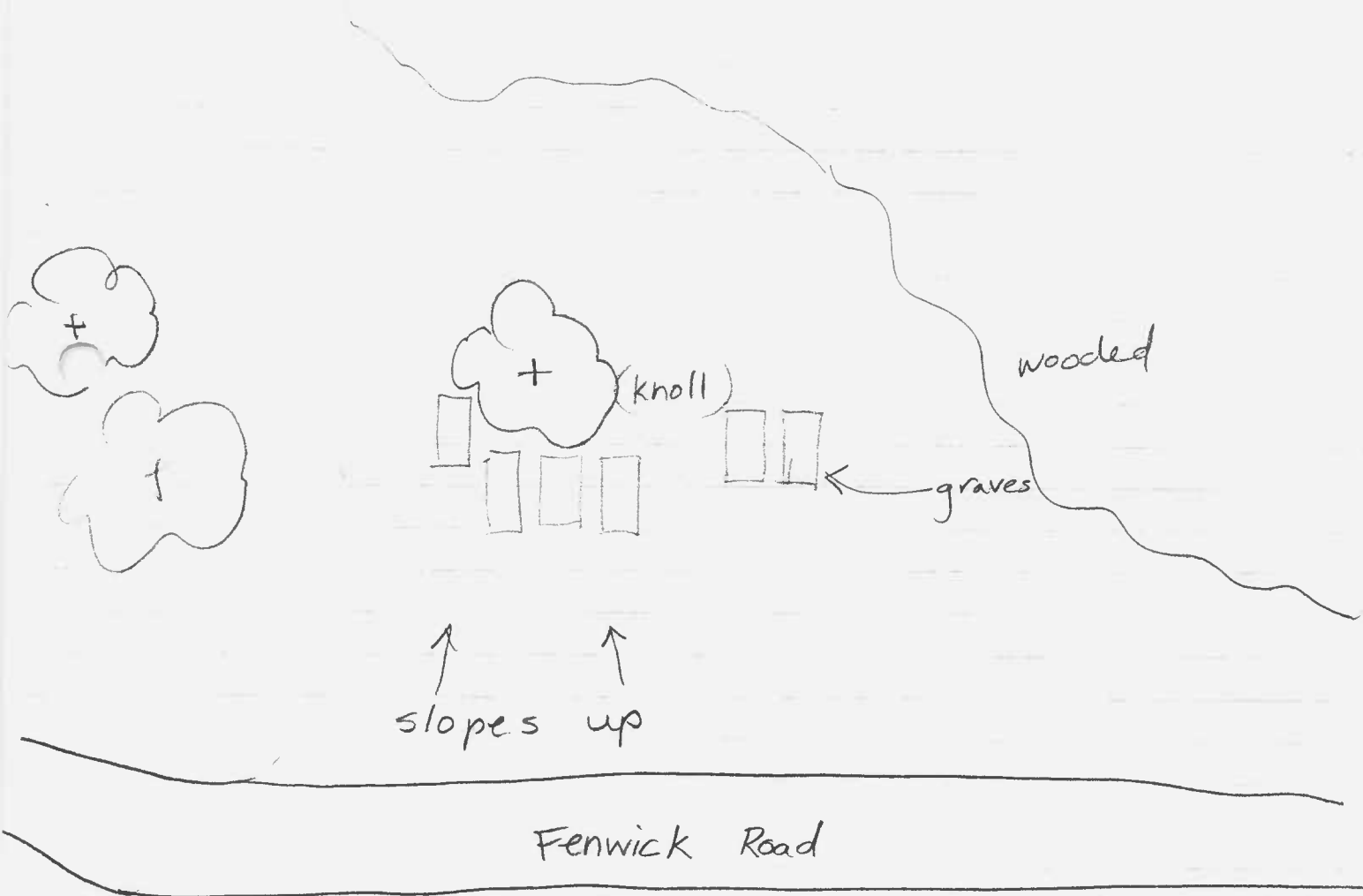
RESOURCE
SKETCH MAP

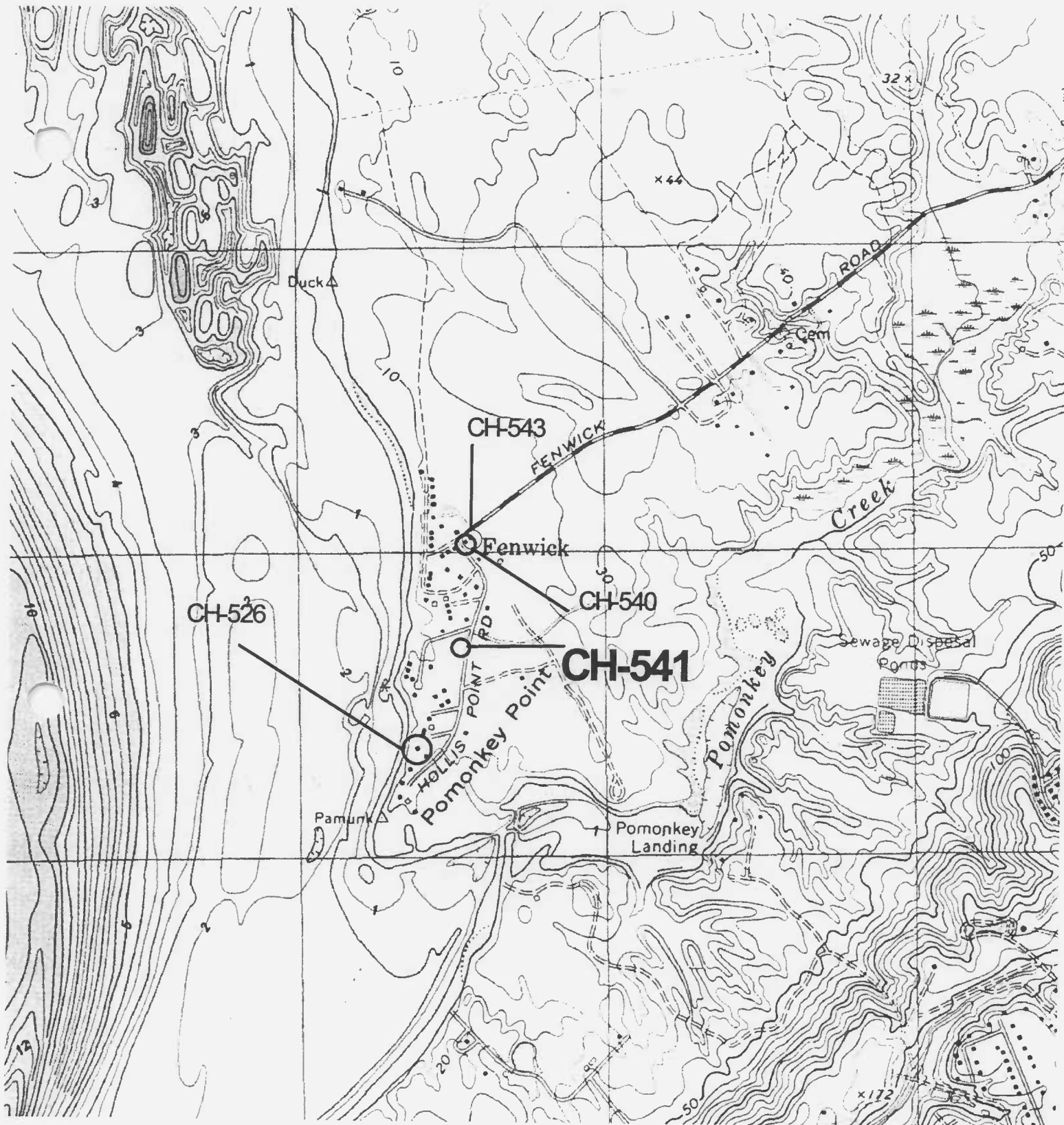
3/99



Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard
Fenwick, MD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

CH-541





Fenwick/Brent Family Graveyard
Charles County, MD

CH-541

MOUNT VERNON, MD-VA QUAD



CH-541

FENWICK/BRENT FAMILY GRAVEYARD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH

3/99

MARYLAND SHPO

3 GRAVE STONES - LOOKING NW

1 OF 1